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REMARKS

The applicant is grateful for the helpful and courteous oral interview granted his undersigned attorney. As agreed to, the undersigned attorney has supplied the basis for amendments made in the filed amendment, where such basis was not stated, and has also scrutinized the specification and claims once more to clarify any portion of either which might be more clearly stated.

When reviewing the specification, it was noted that the first sentence of the second full paragraph on page 15, beginning at line 17, stated:

"In another embodiment, the TPV blend consists essentially of a vulcanizate of isobutyl or EPR or EPDM rubber and a poly(lower)monoolefin, in *which* at least 10 phr, preferably 20 phr, and most preferably all of a mineral oil conventionally used to render the TPV processable, is substituted with polyisobutene oil."

The pronoun "which" was placed most proximately to the noun "poly(lower)monoolefin" though it qualified the noun "blend". The inapt grammar has been corrected.

With respect to the typographical errors in Table 2 where the oxygen permeability was written without the last zero, the declaration of the inventor states he missed noting the error. That the numbers in Table 2, each missing the last zero, was an error is evident from Table 1 and 3.

When reviewing the claims as they stood when their merits were argued, in effect reiterating and explaining details of the arguments made in the response filed the same day, the undersigned attorney failed to note that each of the independent claims inadvertently stated that "(a)" was "a vinylaromatic-*polyolefin* polyblock copolymer, optionally hydrogenated to include a block of a mono(lower)olefin,".

Obviously, it is only after hydrogenation that the midblock becomes a polyolefin.

Since the best mode of the product uses the hydrogenated vinylaromatic-conjugated diene block copolymer as the precursor polymer, this identification was missed; and the redundancy of the term "vinylaromatic-polyolefin polyblock copolymer" in the claims 1, 16, 22 and 23 (in which latter three claims the error was mechanically reproduced) was inadvertently overlooked.

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The language for the currently amended claim 1 stating that "(a)" is a vinylaromatic compound and a conjugated diene polyblock copolymer, optionally hydrogenated to include a block of a mono(lower)olefin, . . ." is found in the specification on page 3, lines 25-26. That the error in the independent claims was simply overlooked is evident from the dependent claims, such as claim 7 defining the block copolymer which could be hydrogenated.

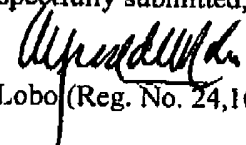
Original claim 3 referred to "the poly(lower)monoolefin", referring to a polyolefin defined by one having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms (stated at the outset in claim 1). Though the rubbery block of a vinylaromatic compound and a conjugated diene which has been hydrogenated results in a poly(lower)monoolefin block, one skilled in the art knows that the polyolefin block is chemically bound to the vinylaromatic block. Claim 3 refers to a polyolefin which is homogeneously distributed within the elastomer, which polyolefin is referred to in greater detail in claim 5.

For the sake of clarity, claim 3 has been amended to state "a poly(lower)monoolefin" to emphasize that the polyolefin referred to is chosen from a polymer of an olefin having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms (stated in claim 1). The poly(lower)monoolefin referred to in claim 3 is the same poly(lower)monoolefin referred to in the amended paragraph above (on page 15 of the specification).

The same amendment has been made in currently amended claim 24 above.

It is respectfully submitted that the basis for the amendments in each of the foregoing claims has now been provided.

Respectfully submitted,


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